

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02779 070914Z

14

ACTION CU-04

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TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: US STUDENTS MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

1. SINCE LAST REVISION IN US STUDENT MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE IN 1970, COSTS OF LIVING IN SRI LANKA HAVE BEEN RAPIDLY RISING, INFLATING PRICES OF ALL BASIC CONSUMER NEEDS. COMMODITIES SUCH AS WHEAT FLOUR AND SUGAR ARE NOW RATIONED, AND HAVE TREBLED IN PRICE SINCE 1970. TEXTILE PRICES HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED. MOST FOOD ITEMS, ESPECIALLY VEGETABLES AND MEAT, ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY AND CONSTANTLY RISING IN PRICE. IN KANDY, WHERE SEVERAL FULBRIGHTERS RESIDE, FOOD IS SHORT, REGARDLESS OF PAYMENT OFFERED. ADDITIONALLY, FOREIGNERS RESIDING HERE EXPERIENCE MUCH RED TAPE IN OBTAINING RATION BOOKS, AND ARE USUALLY EXPECTED TO BUY ON 'OPEN' (BLACK) MARKET.

2. JUDGING BY PRESENT AND EXPECTED CONDITIONS, CURRENT MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES ARE INADEQUATE FOR EVEN MODEST HOUSE-KEEPING AND ARE NOW CREATING HARDSHIPS FOR OUR US STUDENTS WHO ARE URGING FOUNDATION TO INCREASE THEIR ALLOWANCES.

3. AFTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF USEF/SL STRONGLY RECOMMENDS A 35 PERCENT INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO US STUDENTS EFFECTIVE NOV 1973, AND URGES EARLY BFS APPROVAL AND ALLOCATION OF \$7,003. THIS FIGURE BREAKS DOWN AS FOLLOWS: FOR 1973/74 STUDENTS LOUGHEED, SWEET AND WALCOTT, RUPEES 24,956 (\$3,883) AND FOR 1972/73 STUDENTS SPORNY, CARRITHERS AND MACLACHLAN, (ON RENEWAL GRANTS) RUPEES 20,057 (\$3,120).

VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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